

A Look Back at the Winter and Spring 2004-2005

By Don Simonsen, NWS Glasgow Climate Focal Point

Winter Weather Summary 2004-2005

December was much warmer than normal for most of the month, with the only cold weather confined to the last 10 days. No subzero temps occurred until that time. At least 9 locations reached the 60s on the 11th, led by 65 at Jordan 43 ENE. The coldest lows were on the 23rd, with 31 below at Scobey 4NW, and 29 below at Redstone the coldest.

Precipitation averaged near normal, but ranged from .94 at Carlyle, and .84 at Scobey 4NW, to as low as a trace at Port of Raymond. Westby, Harb, and Brockway also had less than a tenth of an inch. Snowfall was led by 17 inches at Jordan 43ENE and 14 inches at Bloomfield.

January had 2 very different and extreme faces. The first half of January was one of the coldest ever observed. Subzero cold was widespread and persistent, with all locations reporting at least a few days where highs didn't even climb above zero. Meanwhile Scobey 4NW had 44 below for the coldest low reported. 4 other locations had 40 below. A sudden and dramatic warm-up occurred around the 17th, with the last 2 weeks of January as unusually warm as the first 2 weeks were unusually cold. Flatwillow came in with a high of 72 on 24th, while Mosby had 70.

Precipitation averaged near normal, but 4 locations had none, including Harb, Hinsdale 4SW, Port of Raymond, and Redstone. The most was .70 at Fort Peck. Nashua had the most monthly snowfall with 11 inches. Snowpack at most locations at mid-month quickly disappeared.

February was warmer and much drier than normal. Most places had no measurable rain or snow. The .11 inch at Flatwillow was the most reported.

Many stations had high reach the 60s, led by 68 at Flatwillow, 67 at Content, and 66 at Mosby. Coldest temperatures were observed on the 7th, with lows of -15 at Westby, -13 at Port of Raymond, -12 at Port of Opheim.

Spring Weather Summary 2005

March was warmer than normal with numerous locations surpassing 70 for highs once or twice during the month, on the 11th or on the 28th. The warmest was 77 in Glendive, 76 at Savage and Flatwillow. There were no subzero temperatures all month. The coldest was 2 above at Malta 35S, Port of Opheim, and Westby.

Precipitation averaged about normal, but Brusett had 1.72 inches, Malta 35S 1.10, and Content 1.00 inches. Meanwhile Redstone had only a trace, Plenytwood .02, Richey 10SW .06. The most snowfall was 17 inches in Zortman, 13 inches at Sidney.

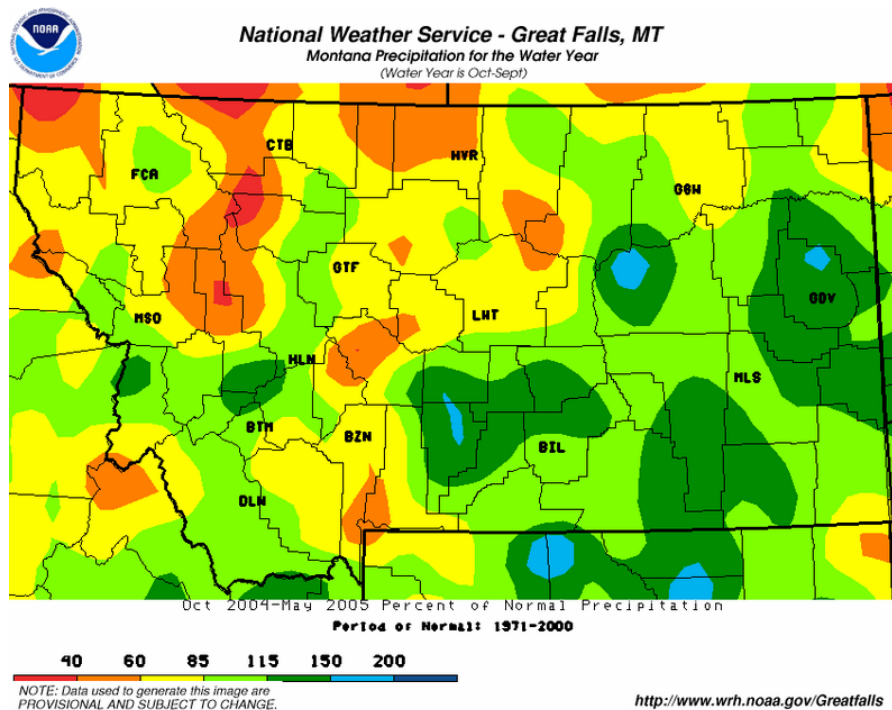
April was warmer than normal but featured large temperature fluctuations typical of Spring. Many places reached the 80s for highs on the 8th, led by 89 at Savage, and 87 at Sidney and Glendive. The month closed with cold weather and many highs only in the 30s, and some lows into the upper teens. The coldest reported was 15 at Port of Morgan on the 28th.

Precipitation varied a great deal. Most locations had over an inch and numerous locations over 2 inches, mainly in the south half of our area (south of the Missouri river). Brussett led the way with 4.95 inches, Mosby 3.22 inches. And yet at the same time, several stations, mainly north of the Missouri River, had little or no precip all month. No measurable precip fell at Plentywood, Scobey 4NW, Sidney, Culbertson, or Westby. For snowfall, Hinsdale 4SW led with 8 inches, Zortman 6 inches. This fell around the 8th, but heavier amounts were reported over the higher elevations of the Little Rockies and Big Sheep Mountains that knocked down power lines with over a million dollars in damage.

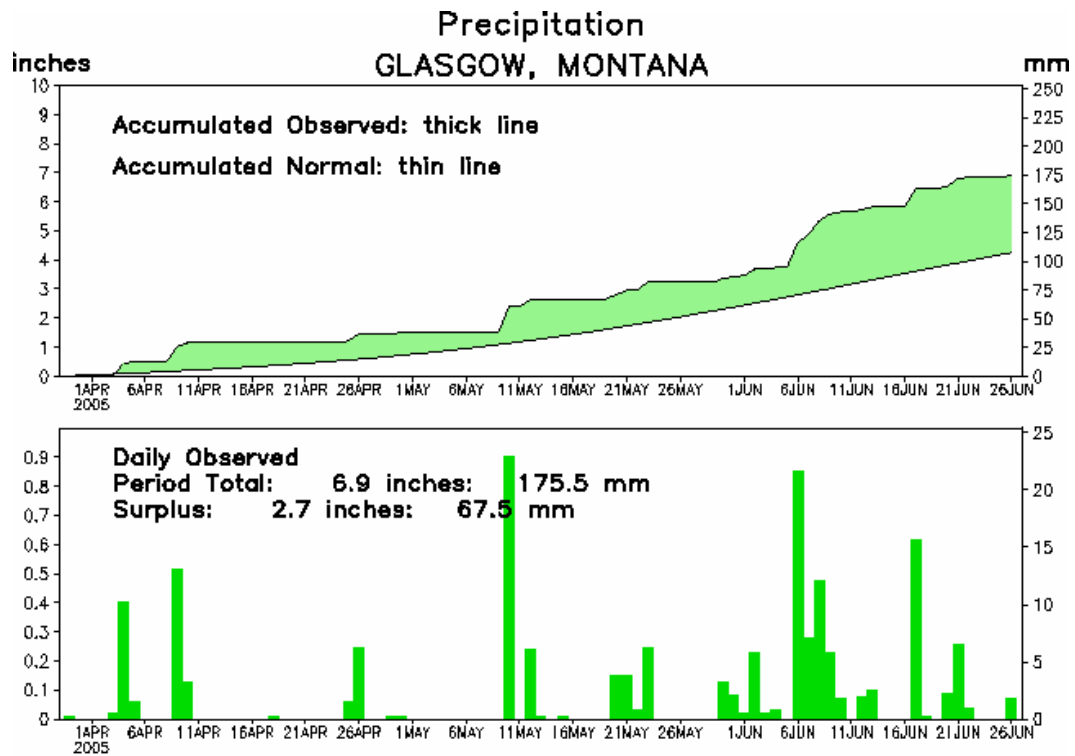
May was cooler and wetter than normal. Widespread significant rainfall occurred, with 4 stations reporting more than 4 inches for the month, led by 4.72 at Vida 6NE. Meanwhile, only a few spots fell short of normal, Glasgow having the least amount with .83 inches, and Dodson and Saco also under an inch for the month. Significant snowfall was on the 12th with 10 inches at Lindsay and Crow Rock, 8 inches in Wibaux.

Temperatures were unusually cold to start the month, with numerous highs in the 30s and lows in the teens, and even some single digits on the 2nd. Scobey 4NW had an amazing low of 6 on the 2nd, Medicine Lake 8, and Plentywood 9. The 12th was unusually cold as well, with Terry and Cohagen not able to even climb above freezing for highs. There were only a few 80s for highs scattered around the month, Glendive leading with a high of 85.

Current Percentage of Normal Precipitation from October 2004 through May 2005



90 Day Precipitation at Glasgow



Data updated through 26 JUN 2005

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